

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: VISIT OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR EUGENE KOPP

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND MRS. KOPP AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IEE GIFFORD MALONE VISITED BELGRADE AND SARAJEVO FROM JAN 22-25 FOR OPENING OF NEWEST INFO CENTER IN SARAJEVO AND SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH FEDERAL AND REPUBLIC (BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA) OFFICIALS. CLIFF-HANGING ATMOSPHERE PRECEDING KOPPS' ARRIVAL CREATED BY DE FACTO LINKAGE BY B-H REPUBLIC AUTHORITIES OF RESOLUTION OF AFN INTERFERENCE IN RADIO SARAJEVO WITH FINAL APPROVAL OF REGISTRATION DOCUMENT THAT WOULD PERMIT OPENING OF CENTER AS SCHEDULED ON JAN 23. NEVERTHELESS AMBASSADOR AND KOPP RECEIVED CORDIALLY AT TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS IN SARAJEVO BEFORE OPENING, ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION OF AFN-RADIO SARAJEVO ISSUE WAS LEITMOTIF OF ALL MEETINGS, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH BEING SENT SEPTTEL.

2. KOPPS ARRIVED FROM BUCHAREST EARLY EVENING JAN. 22, DINED WITH AMBASSADOR AND MRS. TOON AND DEPARTED BY OVERNIGHT SLEEPER FOR SARAJEVO. MR. KOPP ACCOMPANIED AMBASSADOR IN MORNING CALLS JAN 23 ON DANE MALJKOVIC, MAYOR OF SARAJEVO; ZIVKO BABIC, B-H INFORMATION SECRETARY; AND VP B-H EXECUTIVE

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COUNCIL MILAN SKORO.

3. SUCCESSFUL CENTER OPENING BY MR. KOPP REPORTED USINFO, BUT ONLY CLUE TO LINGERING LINKAGE BETWEEN RADIO PROBLEM AND USIC WAS MEDIA BOYCOTT OF OPENING CEREMONY EVENT, EVEN THOUGH ATTENDANCE AND PUBLICITY PROMISED IN ADVANCE. EVENT NORMALLY HAS OCCASIONED FULL MEDIA COVERAGE AS IN SKOPJE AND LJUBLJANA USIC OPENINGS.

4. AFTER RECEPTION AT USIC AND DINNER AT HOTEL, AMBASSADOR AND MR. KOPP AND STAFF FROM EMBASSY/USIS RETURNED TO BELGRADE BY OVERNIGHT TRAIN. ON JAN. 24 FIRST OF FEDERAL LEVEL CALL MADE WITH AMBASSADOR ON PRESIDENT OF COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION TO FEC, MUHAMED BARBEROVIC, WHO APART FROM AFN/RADIO SARAJEVO DWELT UPON NEGATIVE REPORTING ON YUGOSLAVIA BY US PRESS REPS BASED IN BELGRADE. DCM DUDLEY MILLER ACCOMPANIED MR. KOPP NEXT ON CALL ON ZIVAN BERISAVLJEVIC, ASSISTANT FEDERAL SECRETARY, FSFA, FOR PRESS, INFORMATION AND CULTURE. AMBASSADOR'S AND KOPP'S FINAL CALL ON DIRECTOR OF FAISECTC, KRSTO BULAJIC, WAS ONLY ONE IN WHICH SARAJEVO RADIO ISSUE DIDN'T ARISE. DEP DIR FAISECTC, OTO DENES, WHO ALSO AT MEETING, INSTEAD HAPPILY DISCUSSED YUGOSLAV PLANS FOR PARTICIPATIOON IN US BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. (MEMCONS ON ALL TALKSWILL BE SENT OFFICIAL AIR.)

5. MR. KOPP VISITED USIS OFFICES, INCLUDING RENOVATED PORTION AT CIKA LUBINA, WHICH HE HAD LAST SEEN IN 1970.

6. AMBASSADOR'S EVENING RECEPTION IN HONOR OF MR. KOPP NOTABLE FOR HIGH LEVEL OF TURNOUT, INCLUDING ALL THOSE ON WHOM CALLS HAD BEEN MADE IN MORNING PLUS FSFA'S DIR. NO. AMERICAN AFFAIRS STARCEVIC. YRTV SECRETARY GENERAL (WHO ALSO EBU VP) IVO PUSTISEK, FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITORS OF BORBA AND NIN, BELGRADE OPERA CONDUCTOR, WERE AMONG MIX OF INFORMATION/CULTURAL LEADERS PRESENT. AFTER RECEPTION USIC OFFICER STAFF HOSTED DINNER FOR KOPPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND MALONE AT WRITER'S CLUB.

7. KOPP'S DEPARTED FOR ROME ON JAN 25. SHER

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